WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An online trading system comprising:

sale receiving means for receiving submission for sale of an article;

information inputting means for inputting information of the article;

information storing means for storing the information of the article;

auction selecting means for selecting an auction at which the article is to be auctioned;

information showing means for showing the information of the article to public via communicating means;

purchase receiving means for receiving an application for purchase of the article; and

auction instruction information outputting means for instructing a seller to put up the article to the auction selected by said auction selecting means if no purchase application is received within a predetermined period or until a predetermined date and time.

2. An online trading system comprising:

sale receiving means for receiving submission for sale of an article;

information inputting means for inputting information of the

22

article;

     information storing means for storing the information of the
article;

     information showing means for showing information of the
article to public via communicating means;

     purchase receiving means for receiving an application for
purchase of the article; and

     auction selecting means for selecting an auction at which the
article is to be auctioned if no purchase application is received
within a predetermined period or until a predetermined date and
time.

     3. An online trading system comprising:

     sale receiving means for receiving submission for sale of an
article;

     information inputting means for inputting information of the
article;

     information storing means for storing the information of the
article;

     auction selecting means for selecting an auction at which the
article is to be auctioned;

     information showing means for showing the information of the
article to public via communicating means;

     prior bid receiving means for receiving a bid for the article
via the communicating means;

bid submission receiving means for receiving bid submission for the article at the auction; and

successful bid determining means for determining a successful bid based on the information received by said prior bid receiving means and the information received by said bid submission receiving means.

4. An online trading system according to claim 3, wherein said successful bid determining means compares the bid submission of the highest price received by said prior bid receiving means with the bid submission of the highest price received by said bid submission receiving means, and determines that the article is sold at a higher price of the two submissions.

5. An online trading system according to claim 3 or 4 further comprising:

unit price storing means for storing a unit price of bidding up, wherein, if the article is to be sold to a bid submission received by said prior bid receiving means, said successful bid determining means determines a successful bid price by adding the unit price to the highest price of the bid submission received by said bid submission receiving means.

6. An online trading system according to claims 3, 4, or 5, further comprising:

unit price storing means for storing a unit price of bidding up; and

24

starting price storing means for storing a starting price of the auction, wherein, if there is no bid submission at the auction but a bid submission is received via the communicating means, said successful bid determining means determines a successful bid price by adding the unit price to the starting price.

7. An online trading system according to any one of claims 1 through 6, wherein said information showing means shows the information of the article to public for a predetermined number of days and hours before the date of the auction at which the article is to be auctioned.

8. An online trading system according to any one of claims 1 through 6, wherein said information showing means shows the information of the article to public on a predetermined day weeks before the date of the auction at which the article is to be auctioned.

9. An online trading system according to any one of claims 1 through 8, wherein the article is a used car, and the information to be shown by said information showing means includes at least one of a manufacturer, a model, a car name, a grade, a shape, a use, an exterior color, a color No., an interior color, a body number, a displacement volume, the next compulsory safety check interval, a mileage, fuel, a shift, equipment, the quickest possible delivery date, a selling point, a photo, and a safety check certificate.